

IV. REMARKS

With the above amendments, the specification has been amended to add section headings. The Abstract of the Disclosure has been amended to comply with 37 C.F.R. § 1.72.

Claims 14, 16, 19-23 and 30 have been amended, and new claims 31 and 32 have been added to place the claims in better form for examination. No new matter has been added.

Accordingly, it is believed that the application is in good condition for examination.

A. The Examiner's Restriction Requirement

The Examiner requires restriction, under 35 U.S.C. §§ 121 and 372 of the present application to one of the following inventions:

Group I: Claims 14-29, drawn to an electro-optical display cell; and

Group II: Claim 30, drawn to a method of metallising a group of liquid crystal cells.

The Examiner contends that the inventions of Groups II and I are distinct from each other and related as process of making and product made. The Examiner contends that the product as claimed may be made by another materially different process such as eliminating the need to metalise the cells and separating the cells in individual cells.

The Examiner also requires election of one of the following species:

Species I: the specifics being the contact means take the form of discrete bumps; and

Species II: the specifics being the contact means take the form of a tape of anisotropic conductive material.

The Examiner contends that Species I and II lack unity of invention and do not form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1. However, the Examiner has determined that claims 14, 16, 17 and 19-29 are generic.

Applicants elect the invention of Group I, claims 14-29, for further prosecution on the merits. In addition, Applicants elect Species I, wherein the contact means take the form of discrete bumps, for further prosecution on the merits. Applicants agree that claims 14, 16, 17 and 19-29 are generic. Applicants assert that claim 15 corresponds to Species I, and that new claims 31 and 32 are generic. Claim 18 corresponds to Species II.


The above election is made with traverse. Specifically, Applicants contend that there is no distinct patentable feature between “contact means” that take the form of “discrete bumps” (Species I) and contact means that take the form of a “tape of anisotropic conductive material” (Species II). These two types of contact means are equivalent solutions to the same problem solved by the present invention.

For all of the above reasons, the Examiner’s restriction/election requirement is improper and should be withdrawn.

Questions are welcomed by the below-signed attorney for Applicants.

Respectfully submitted,

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